

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

---



## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam*

---

***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney William P. Cole (619)557-7859***

---

***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - May 12, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up an Indictment charging local attorney Cameron CAMPBELL, Joseph Wayne McCOOL and Donald MANNING with 11 counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, all arising out of their operation of a company named The Brixon Group Ltd. ("Brixon") through which they fraudulently solicited over \$10 million from members of the public, supposedly for participation in high-yield investment programs. The Indictment alleges that the defendants induced people to invest their retirement accounts and other funds in Brixon by falsely representing that the investments would generate returns of 10 percent per month, that the State Bar of California insured the investors' principal, and that McCOOL was a banking expert who, prior to working with Brixon, had successfully managed a large private trust in Europe. According to the Indictment, however, the defendants intentionally concealed from investors the fact that most money invested in Brixon would not be placed into investments, and that new funds received from investors would be used to make payments to earlier investors. The Indictment further alleges that the

defendants intentionally concealed that from potential investors the fact that just prior to operating Brixon, McCOOL had served over two years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods.

The Indictment also alleges that the defendants converted hundreds of thousands of dollars of investors' funds to their own personal use and benefit, and that when Brixon stopped making payments to investors, CAMPBELL and McCOOL falsely represented that the money was tied up in Europe due to the United States Patriot Act and other international banking problems.

United States Attorney Lam stated: "Investors should beware of promises of exceptionally high, 'guaranteed' returns over short periods of time that look too good to be true, even if an attorney is vouching for the investment."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel R. Dzwilewski commented, "Yesterday's indictment is a reflection of the FBI's commitment to investigate those who defraud honest citizens of their money. The FBI recognizes that the public is our greatest asset. We would like to thank the Arizona Corporation Commission for their assistance in this investigation. Though Mr. Campbell was arrested Friday morning by FBI agents in Carlsbad, we are seeking the public's assistance in locating both Joseph Wayne McCool and Donald John Manning, whose whereabouts are currently unknown."

Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested CAMPBELL today and he appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes in San Diego. Judge Stormes arraigned CAMPBELL on the Indictment and set bail at \$200,000, fully secured by real property. Judge Stormes ordered CAMPBELL to appear before United States District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz on June 19, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. for further proceedings.

**DEFENDANTS**

**Criminal Case No. 06-CR-1021-BTM**

Cameron Campbell (in custody)

Joseph Wayne McCool

Donald Manning

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

### **Count 1** (all defendants)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States  
Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine

### **Counts 2-12** (all defendants)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 - Wire Fraud  
Maximum penalties (per count): 20 years in prison and a fine equal to twice the gross loss caused to persons by the offense.

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Arizona Corporation Commission

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**